

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
FACT BOOK
FY 2005/06 PROPOSED GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**

INTRODUCTION

California's geographic and biological diversity is unparalleled by any other state. Its water resources include 1,100 miles of coastline, 4,955 lakes and reservoirs, 103 major streams, and 74 major rivers. Its landscape is vast and varied, including three of the four North American desert habitats, some of the highest peaks in North America, and the most productive farmland in the world. Across this landscape and along the coast live more than 935 vertebrate and 100,000 invertebrate species, more than 7,000 vascular plant species, and more than 350 threatened or endangered species.

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) is entrusted to protect and conserve these natural resources. The Department's mission is "to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public." The DFG fulfills this mission by, among other things:

- Managing over 1 million acres of land, including 110 wildlife areas, 132 ecological reserves and 180 public access sites for ecological and recreational uses.
- Restoring habitats and improving the ecological health of the Bay-Delta ecosystem through participation in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, a cooperative effort of roughly 20 state and federal agencies.
- Developing and implementing plans to conserve biological diversity at the ecosystem level in partnership with local, state, and federal stakeholders resulting in large reserve systems.
- Enforcing hundreds of laws and regulations related to fish, wildlife, and habitat over 158,000 square miles of land and along 1,100 miles of coastline.
- Conserving and restoring anadromous fisheries and watershed health.
- Conserving and recovering threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats upon which they depend for survival.
- Reviewing thousands of environmental documents each year for land and water projects that affect fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats.
- Serving as the lead agency for preventing, responding to, and cleaning up oil spills and spills of other deleterious materials on land and water.
- Collecting and analyzing scientifically-based data on the distribution and abundance of fish, wildlife, and native plant species and the natural communities and habitats in which they live.
- Managing sustainable recreational and commercial opportunities by providing fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related programs.
- Conducting a diverse range of outreach and educational programs to enhance the public's understanding of the laws and regulations related to California's natural resources.
- Acquiring millions of dollars in federal grant funding to protect habitat, restore watersheds, assist local governments with conservation planning, restore the Bay-

Delta ecosystem, and leverage other sources of funding for critical conservation actions.

While the DFG has experienced significant program and personnel reductions in recent years, our dedicated employees remain committed to the Department's mission. At the same time, the DFG is working on efficiencies such as improved accountability for its program expenditures, and developing cost-sharing agreements where appropriate. DFG has also pursued new partnerships with diverse stakeholders and other agencies to assure continuity in the important conservation work of the State.

This **FACT BOOK** provides a snapshot of the Department's organizational diversity, from its 40-plus funding sources to the myriad programs that help fulfill the DFG's mission.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME'S BUDGET

What are the Department of Fish and Game's (DFG) major programs that help meet its mission?

Biodiversity Conservation (Program 20)

The objective of this program is to fulfill the policy of the State to encourage the preservation, conservation and maintenance of wildlife resources under the jurisdiction and influence of the State, including the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. Major activities include:

- Multi-species habitat conservation planning and biodiversity protection and restoration statewide
- Central Valley Bay Delta multi-species and habitat conservation planning and biodiversity protection and restoration
- Marine Multi-species and habitat conservation planning
- Marine biodiversity protection and restoration

Hunting, Fishing, and Public Use, (Program 25)

The objective of this program is to provide for diverse and sustainable hunting, fishing (recreational and commercial), trapping, and other public uses (wildlife observation) and associated economic benefits to the State. Activities include collection and assessment of information on the distribution and abundance of game fish and wildlife to determine the need for regulations (bag limits, gear restrictions, etc.) and to monitor the effect of those regulations. Major activities include:

- Hunting and public use regulations and opportunities statewide
- Inland sport fishing regulations and opportunities
- Marine sport fishing regulations and opportunities
- Inland commercial fisheries management
- Marine commercial fisheries management

Management of Department Lands and Facilities (Program 30)

The objective of this program is to manage Department-owned or leased lands and facilities (including hatcheries, wildlife areas, ecological reserves, fish and wildlife laboratories, and public access) for their contribution to the conservation, protection, and management of fish and wildlife, and for their use by the public. Major activities include:

- Management of Department lands and facilities statewide
- Hatcheries and fish planting facilities statewide

Conservation Education and Enforcement (Program 40)

The objective of this program is to serve the public through hunter education and other conservation education programs and to promote compliance with laws and regulations protecting fish and wildlife resources and their habitats and public safety. Major activities include:

- Conservation Education
- Marine Conservation Education
- Enforcement and public safety
- Marine enforcement and public safety

Spill Prevention and Response (Program 50)

The objective of this program is to prevent damage, minimize impacts, restore, and rehabilitate California's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats from the harmful effects of oil and deleterious material spills in marine waters and inland habitats. Major activities include:

- Prevention
- Readiness
- Response
- Restoration and remediation

Distributed Administration (Program 70)

The objective of this program is to provide overall direction and support for operations of the Department and to assist other divisions to achieve program goals.

Where does the Department of Fish and Game get its operating revenue?

The DFG receives funding from more than 40 sources, including the state General Fund, Californians who purchase hunting and fishing licenses, voter-approved bond measures, the federal government, endangered species tax check-off and other donations, various fees, fines or mitigation, other state agencies and from the sale of environmental license plates.

Who decides how much money the DFG can spend every year?

Like all state agencies, the Department of Fish and Game obtains its spending authority from the annual state budget enacted by the Legislature and the Governor and ongoing statutory authority.

How much money does the DFG spend annually?

The DFG's budget for FY 2004-05 is \$362.2 million, compared to \$273.9 million in FY 2003-04. This difference is primarily due to \$72.3 million in one-time bond revenue dedicated for the CALFED - Ecosystem Restoration Program Implementation.

How much discretion does the DFG have in how it spends its budget?

Very little. Almost all of the Department's operating revenue is designated for specific programs in the state budget. As the DFG's budget has grown over time, the state budget has earmarked new revenues for specific programs. The Department is required to spend these revenues as directed by the Legislature and Governor.

How much do hunters and recreational fishermen contribute to the DFG's budget through the purchase of recreational hunting and fishing licenses?

Hunting and sport fishing licenses generated about \$77.2 million in revenue in FY 2003-04, roughly one-fourth of the Department's total budget.

How does the Department spend this revenue?

The Fish and Game Code requires the Department to fund hunting and sport fishing programs with hunting and sport fishing related revenues. These programs include, but are not limited to, fish hatcheries, fish stocking, wildlife management, management of wildlife areas and other public lands, law enforcement, habitat restoration, and education programs.

What is biodiversity conservation?

It is the preservation and protection of the variety of living organisms and the ecological systems upon which their survival depends.

How are "habitat restoration" and other biodiversity projects linked to hunting and recreational fishing?

Providing recreational opportunities for hunters and anglers involves more than just growing fish or establishing hunting seasons. Fish, for example, need clean water and suitable habitat to survive and spawn, and they need protection against poachers and polluters. To that end, the DFG spends a substantial portion of its budget improving fish habitat, enforcing fishing regulations, and cleaning up pollution. Likewise, the DFG conducts extensive research, outreach and education programs, and law enforcement activities to provide quality hunting opportunities and a sustainable harvest.

What is the long-term funding plan for fish hatcheries?

In 2004 due to budget cuts DFG closed the Mad River Hatchery in Humboldt County and had to severely reduce funding for Hot Creek Hatchery in Mono County. Public response to these reductions resulted in the formation of partnerships with two non-profit groups to provide funding and in-kind support to keep them operating. Additionally, the state budget for FY 2004-05 allocated up to \$4 million, on a one-time basis, for fish hatcheries. The final amount will be dependent upon oil prices and the actual amount of revenue generated in the Tidelands Oil Fund. The Department is also in the process of developing a statewide hatchery plan to ensure that fish hatcheries are appropriately funded in the future.